FD-1057 (Rev. 5-8-10)

UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Opening EC for Preliminary Investigation **Date:** 08/13/2018

CC: [redacted] b6 b7C

From: NEW YORK
NY-C14
Contact: [redacted]

Approved By: A/SSA [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 58A-NY-2969119 (U) QANON; False Personation of a Federal Official

Synopsis: (U) To obtain approval for the opening of a Preliminary Investigation and notify the Public Corruption Unit (PCU) of the case opening.

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. (U) QANON Opening EC

Details:

On August 2, 2018, FBI New York Field Office received information that QANON, an unidentified internet figure(s), was asserting to be a high level federal official with a security clearance and disseminating purportedly classified information on the websites 4Chan and 8Chan.

QANON purports to be a highly placed federal official with a "Q Clearance" and access to the President. QANON purports that there is a conspiracy amongst various law enforcement agencies to overthrow the President. QANON further states that many current and former members

Title: (U) Opening EC for Preliminary Investigation
Re: 58A-NY-2969119, 08/13/2018

of the government, along with various specifically and generally named celebrities and other U.S. persons are involved in pedophilia and child kidnapping rings.

QANON supporters have shown up to rallies wearing commercially available QANON themed clothing. QANON posted pictures of locations associated with various people implied to be part of the conspiracy against the president including [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] At least two people stating to have been influenced by QANON have been involved in armed standoffs with local police officers.

QANON has not publicly revealed their identity. It is unknown whether QANON is actually affiliated with the U.S. Government. It is also unknown whether QANON is profiting off of the assertion that they are a government employee.

Assistant United States Attorneys [redacted] and [redacted] concurred with the opening of this investigation [redacted] b5 b6 b7C

Based on the information supplied in this EC, there is an articulable factual basis to believe that an activity constituting a federal crime has or may have occurred, is or may be occurring, or will or may occur, and the investigation may obtain information of intelligence relating to the activity or the involvement or role of an individual, group, or organization in such activity. Therefore, it is requested that a Preliminary Investigation be approved.

The investigative strategy includes issuing grand jury subpoenas, conducting interviews, review of financial records, and employing other investigative methods, as appropriate.

SAs [redacted] and [redacted] are the assigned case agents. b6 b7C

Title: (U) Opening EC for Preliminary Investigation
Re: 58A-NY-2969119, 08/13/2018

♦♦

U. S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 58A-NY-NEW

New York, New York
August 13, 2018

QANON, FALSE PERSONATION OF A FEDERAL OFFICIAL

New York Office is opening a Preliminary Investigation into QANON, an online persona purporting to be a high placed public official.

On August 2, 2018, FBI New York Field Office received a referral QANON was purporting to be a highly placed government employee disseminating classified information.

Assistant United States Attorneys [redacted] and [redacted] concurred with the opening of this investigation [redacted] b5 b6 b7C

The point of contact for this investigation is Special Agent [redacted] telephone number [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

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FD-302 (Rev. 5-8-10)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 09/11/2018

On August 14, 2018, FBI New York received open source information that

[redacted] b6 b7C b7E

Searches were conducted with open-source resources [redacted]

[redacted] The following information was obtained via searches:

[redacted] b6 b7C b7E

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C b7E

[redacted]

Social Security Number (SSN): [redacted]

Date of Birth (DOB): [redacted]

Address: [redacted] b6 b7C

Phone numbers: [redacted]

[redacted]

Investigation on 09/10/2018 at New York, New York, United States (In Person)

File # 58A-NY-2969119 Date drafted 09/10/2018

by [redacted] b6 b7C

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[redacted] b7E

FD-1057 (Rev. 5-8-10)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U//~~FOUO~~) Basic Records Checks on Qanon Cult [redacted] Date: 10/24/2018 b6 b7C

From: NEW YORK
NY-ID03
Contact: [redacted] b6 b7C

Approved By: [redacted] b7E

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: [redacted] (U) UNSUB; UNAFFILIATED BOMBING MATTER; [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

Synopsis: (U//~~FOUO~~) To document the results of database checks and open source research on facilities and identifiers associated with Qanon Cult [redacted] b6 b7C

Details:

(U//~~FOUO~~) On 09 October 2018, writer conducted a variety of database checks and open source research on the QANON group [redacted] b6 b7C

(U) According to an open source website, Qanon is a right-wing conspiracy group that began with an October 2017 post on the anonymous imageboard 4chan by someone using the handle Q claiming to have access to classified information involving the Trump administration and its opponents in the United States. The theory details a supposed secret conspiracy by an alleged "deep state" against U.S. President Donald Trump and his supporters. The account has accused numerous liberal Hollywood actors, politicians, and high-ranking officials of engaging in an international child sex trafficking ring, [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

Title: (U//~~FOUO~~) Basic Records Checks on Qanon Cult [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

Re: [redacted] 10/24/2018

[redacted] Qanon adherents began appearing at Trump rallies during the summer of 2018. b6 b7C

(U) The conspiracy theory, mainly popularized by supporters of President Trump under the names The Storm and The Great Awakening, has been widely characterized as "baseless", "unhinged" and "evidence-free". Its proponents have been called "a deranged conspiracy cult" and "some of the Internet's most *outré* Trump fans".

(U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

(U//~~LES~~) [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

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UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: 10/24/2018

Case ID #: (U) UNSUB; UNAFFILIATED BOMBING MATTER;

Drafted By:

Date/Time Received: 10/24/2018 03:07 PM EDT

Details:

On 10/24/2018, at 3:07 p.m. Eastern Time, email address telephone number home address Internet Protocol (IP) address which resolves to submitted an online tip to the FBI Public Access Line (PAL) Unit via tips.fbi.gov, to report information regarding a cult that may be related to the bombs.

Date Submitted: 10/24/2018 03:07:17 PM
Transaction Number:

Submitted Text:

I felt compelled to call about the bombing devices found today in New York. The cult known as QANON posted in their rabbit hole that there would be bombs coming to take down the "Deep State" players and the "lying media" and that is exactly what we are seeing today.

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b7E

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: 10/27/2018

Case ID #: (U) UNSUB; UNAFFILIATED BOMBING MATTER;

b6
b7C
b7E

Drafted By:

Date/Time Received: 10/27/2018 09:04 AM EDT

Details:

PAL2018 Suspicious Package (NY)

b6
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b7E

Date Submitted: 10/27/2018 09:04:14 AM

Transaction Number:

b7E

Submitted Text:

lives in and promotes a group called Qanon.

b6
b7C

He's just an avid follower of Qanon

Complainant Information

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Subfile Opening Document **Date:** 10/29/2018

From: NEW YORK
NY-C14
Contact: [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Approved By: SSA [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 58A-NY-2969119-TEL (U) QANON; False Personation of a Federal Official

Synopsis: (U) Request to open TEL subfile

Details:

Request to open TEL subfile for telephone pen register data.

♦♦

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Subfile Opening Document **Date:** 11/16/2018

From: NEW YORK
NY-C14
Contact: [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Approved By: SSA [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 58A-NY-2969119-INTELPRODS (U) QANON; False Personation of a Federal Official

Synopsis: (U) To open Intelligence Products sub-file.

Details:

To open Intelligence Products sub-file.

♦♦

FD-1036 (Rev. 10-16-2009)

UNCLASSIFIED/~~LES~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Import Form

Form Type: IntelProd-TIR - Tactical Intelligence Report **Date:** 01/02/2019

Title: (U//~~FOUO~~) Interstate Threatening Communications By [redacted] b6 b7C

Approved By: SIA [redacted] b6 b7C
SSRA

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 9E-SU-3008380 (U) PAL2018[redacted] E-Tip: Interstate Threatening Communciations By [redacted] (SU) [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

CONFIDENTIAL HUMAN SOURCE INFORMATION

Information contained in this document pertains to a highly sensitive intelligence source. Recipients are cautioned to avoid taking any action based on this information that could compromise the source without prior contact with the FBIHQ operational division, section, or field office, as appropriate.

Synopsis: (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:

1. (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] b6 b7C b7E
2. (U//~~FOUO~~)
3. (U//~~FOUO~~)

FD-1057 (Rev. 5-8-10)

UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) [redacted] **Date:** 01/16/2019 b7E

From: BOSTON
BS-WORC
Contact: [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 62F-BS-3049693 (U) NTOC2019 [redacted] Reported Concern That [redacted] Involved in the Conspiracy Group QAnon [redacted] (BS) b6 b7C b7E

Synopsis: (U) NTOC2019 [redacted] Reported Concern That [redacted] Involved in the Conspiracy Group QAnon [redacted] (BS) b6 b7C b7E

Assessment Initiated: 01/16/2019, set to expire 02/15/2019

Details: On 01/13/2019, at 4:17 p.m. Eastern Time, [redacted] date of birth [redacted] cellular telephone number [redacted] address [redacted] called the FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) to report concerns that [redacted] has become involved in the conspiracy group, QAnon [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

NOTE: This information is being sent for situational awareness or any action deemed appropriate by the Boston Division.

[redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

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FD-1036 (Rev. 10-16-2009)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Import Form

Form Type: FD-71A **Date:** 01/24/2019

Title: U NTOC2019 Reported Concern That Involved in the Conspiracy Group QAnon b6 b7C b7E

Approved By: b6 b7C

Drafted By:

Case ID #: 62F-BS-3049693 (U) NTOC2019 Reported Concern That Involved in the Conspiracy Group QAnon (BS) b6 b7C b7E

Synopsis: U DOCUMENT SYNOPSIS CREATED ON 01-24-2019 03:35 PM--SEE FOR CURRENT ASSESSMENT DATA.
On 01/13/2019, at 4:17 p.m. Eastern Time, date of birth cellular telephone number address called the FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) to report concerns that has become involved in the conspiracy group, QAnon b6 b7C b7D b7E

NOTE: This information is being sent for situational awareness or any action deemed appropriate by the Boston Division.

provided the following information:

b6 b7C b7D

b6 b7C b7D

U. S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 58A-NY-2969119

New York, New York
January 24, 2019

CASE: QANON

The preliminary investigation was opened on August 13, 2018, based on allegations that an unknown person was posing as a federal government official on internet messageboards using the name QANON and potentially profiting off and/or inciting violence by use of their false personation. FBI New York has taken all logical and reasonable investigative steps warranted by the situation.

FBI New York attempted to identify the person(s) behind the online persona QANON by subpoenaing [redacted]

[redacted] b3 b5

FBI New York is requesting to close the preliminary investigation with AUSA concurrence. FBI New York will reopen the investigation should new, actionable information present itself.

The point of contact for this investigation is Special Agent [redacted] telephone number [redacted] b6 b7C b7E

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Closing EC **Date:** 01/28/2019

From: NEW YORK
NY-C14
Contact: [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Approved By: SSA [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 58A-NY-2969119 (U) QANON; False Personation of a Federal Official

Synopsis: (U) To close a preliminary investigation and notify the Public Corruption Unit (PCU) of the case closing.

Package Copy: (U) Letterhead memorandum for dissemination.

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. (U) Closing LHM

Details:

I. FBI New York attempted to identify the person(s) behind the online persona QANON by subpoenaing [redacted]

[redacted]

b3
b5

UNCLASSIFIED

Title: (U) Closing EC
Re: 58A-NY-2969119, 01/28/2019

II. Sufficient personnel and financial resources were available for the investigation.

III. A logical and reasonable investigation was completed.

IV. All investigative techniques and methods have been completed /discontinued.

V. No leads were set during the course of this investigation.

VI. No evidence was collected during the course of this investigation.

VII. C4 Administrative Closing, no criminal subject was identified after logical and reasonable preliminary investigation. AUSA [redacted] of the Southern District of New York concurred with closing.

b6
b7C

♦♦

FD-999 (Rev. 5-8-10)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dissemination of Information to Other Agencies

Title: (U) LHM Closing Dissemination to Department of Justice//Public Integrity Section

Date: 02/13/2019

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

b6
b7C

Case ID #: 58A-NY-2969119 (U) QANON; False Personation of a Federal Official

Responsible Organization: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

Agency Contacted: Department of Justice on 02/13/2019 via Note

POC: Chief - [redacted]

b6
b7C

Disseminated On: 02/13/2019 (Once)

Dissemination Details: (U) Disseminated this serial in weekly package for DOJ Public Integrity Section.

Method: Written

Follow-up Required (SSTF): No

Disseminated Serials:
58A-NY-2969119, Serial 3, (U) Closing EC

♦♦

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FD-1036 (Rev. 10-16-2009)

~~SECRET//NOFORN//LES~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 04-27-2023 BY: [redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Import Form

b6
b7C

Form Type: IntelProd-IN - Intelligence Note Date: 08/12/2019

Title: (U//~~FOUO~~) Radicalized Followers of QAnon Likely Pose a Threat to NY AOR Residents Targeted by Conspiracy

Approved By: SIA [redacted]
A/SSIA [redacted]
[redacted]

b6
b7C

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 58A-NY-2969119-INTELPRODS (U) QANON; False Personation of a Federal Official

Synopsis: (U//~~FOUO~~) FBI New York assesses [redacted]

b7E

~~Reason: 1.4(b)~~
~~Derived From: FBI NSIC CG~~
~~Declassify On: 20291231~~

♦♦